

WE CLAIM:

1. An improved oven for use in a residence, comprising:

(a) an oven including:

- (1) a cooking chamber;
- (2) a programmable controller for executing program instructions;
- (3) memory media for recording executable program instructions;

and

- (4) at least one controllable cooking system under control of said programmable controller, providing a data-processing-controlled high speed cooking process which may be applied to food placed in said chamber;

(b) a plurality of cooking programs recorded in said memory media of said oven for defining a plurality of high speed cooking routines available for use with said oven;

(c) a gateway server communicatively coupled to said programmable controller for managing the communication of digital content which is at least in-part related to operation and utilization of said improved oven; and

(d) a broadband communication channel extending from a source of digital content, which is external to said residence, to said residence, for delivering particular digital content related to said oven through said gateway server for distribution within said residence including distribution to said programmable

controller of said oven in order to facilitate cooking operations utilizing said oven.

2. An improved oven according to claim 1 wherein said gateway server comprises a data processing device housed in a location external to said improved oven.
3. An improved oven according to claim 1 wherein said gateway server comprises at least one data processing device from the following data processing devices:
 - (1) a home personal computing system;
 - (2) a set top cable box;
 - (3) an internet appliance;
 - (4) a combination television and internet appliance;
 - (5) a home automation system;
 - (6) a satellite communication system;
 - (7) a residential broadband bi-directional communication system.

4. An improved oven according to claim 1 wherein said gateway server and said programmable controller of said oven communicate through an input/out system which allows at least one of the following types of communication;

- (1) serial communication of data;
- (2) parallel communication of data;
- (3) communication of control signals;
- (4) communication of digital content.

5. An improved oven according to claim 1 wherein said programmable controller of said improved oven is communicatively coupled through said gateway server to at least one of the following devices:

- (1) a home personal computing system;
- (2) a home television system;
- (3) a home video display system;
- (4) a code reading device; and
- (5) a wireless and portable internet appliance.

6. An improved oven according to claim 1 wherein said programmable controller of said improved oven operates collaboratively with said gateway server to define a broadband communication system which allows the bi-directional communication of digital content between a residence and resources external of said residence.

7. An improved oven according to claim 6 wherein said broadband communication system allows communication speeds as low as a slow

modem connection and as high as the highest commercially possible data rates.

8. An improved oven for use in a residence, comprising:

(a) an oven including:

- (1) a cooking chamber;
- (2) a programmable controller for executing program instructions;
- (3) memory media for recording executable program instructions;

and

- (4) a plurality of cooking energy sources, which are different from one another, which are under control of said programmable controller, and which together provide a data-processing-controlled high speed combination cooking process for food placed in said chamber;

(b) a plurality of cooking programs recorded in said memory media of said oven for defining a plurality of high speed cooking routines available for use with said oven;

(c) a gateway server communicatively coupled to said programmable controller for managing the communication of digital content which is at least in-part related to operation and utilization of said improved oven; and

(d) a broadband communication channel extending from a source of digital content, which is external to said residence, to said residence, for delivering

particular digital content related to said oven through said gateway server for distribution within said residence including distribution to said programmable controller of said oven in order to facilitate cooking operations utilizing said oven.

9. An improved oven according to claim 8 wherein said gateway server comprises a data processing device housed in a location external to said improved oven.

10. An improved oven according to claim 8 wherein said gateway server comprises at least one data processing device from the following data processing devices:

- (1) a home personal computing system;
- (2) a set top cable box;
- (3) an internet appliance;
- (4) a combination television and internet appliance;
- (5) a home automation system;
- (6) a satellite communication system;
- (7) a residential broadband bi-directional communication system.

11. An improved oven according to claim 8 wherein said gateway server and said programmable controller of said oven communicate through an input/out system which allows at least one of the following types of communication;

- (1) serial communication of data;
- (2) parallel communication of data;
- (3) communication of control signals;
- (4) communication of digital content.

12. An improved oven according to claim 8 wherein said programmable controller of said improved oven is communicatively coupled through said gateway server to at least one of the following devices:

- (1) a home personal computing system;
- (2) a home television system;
- (3) a home video display system; and
- (4) a code reading device.

13. An improved oven according to claim 8 wherein said programmable controller of said improved oven operates collaboratively with said gateway server to define a broadband communication system which allows the bi-directional communication of digital content between a residence and resources external of said residence.

14. An improved oven according to claim 13 wherein said broadband communication system allows communication speeds as low as a slow

modem connection and as high as the highest commercially possible data rates.